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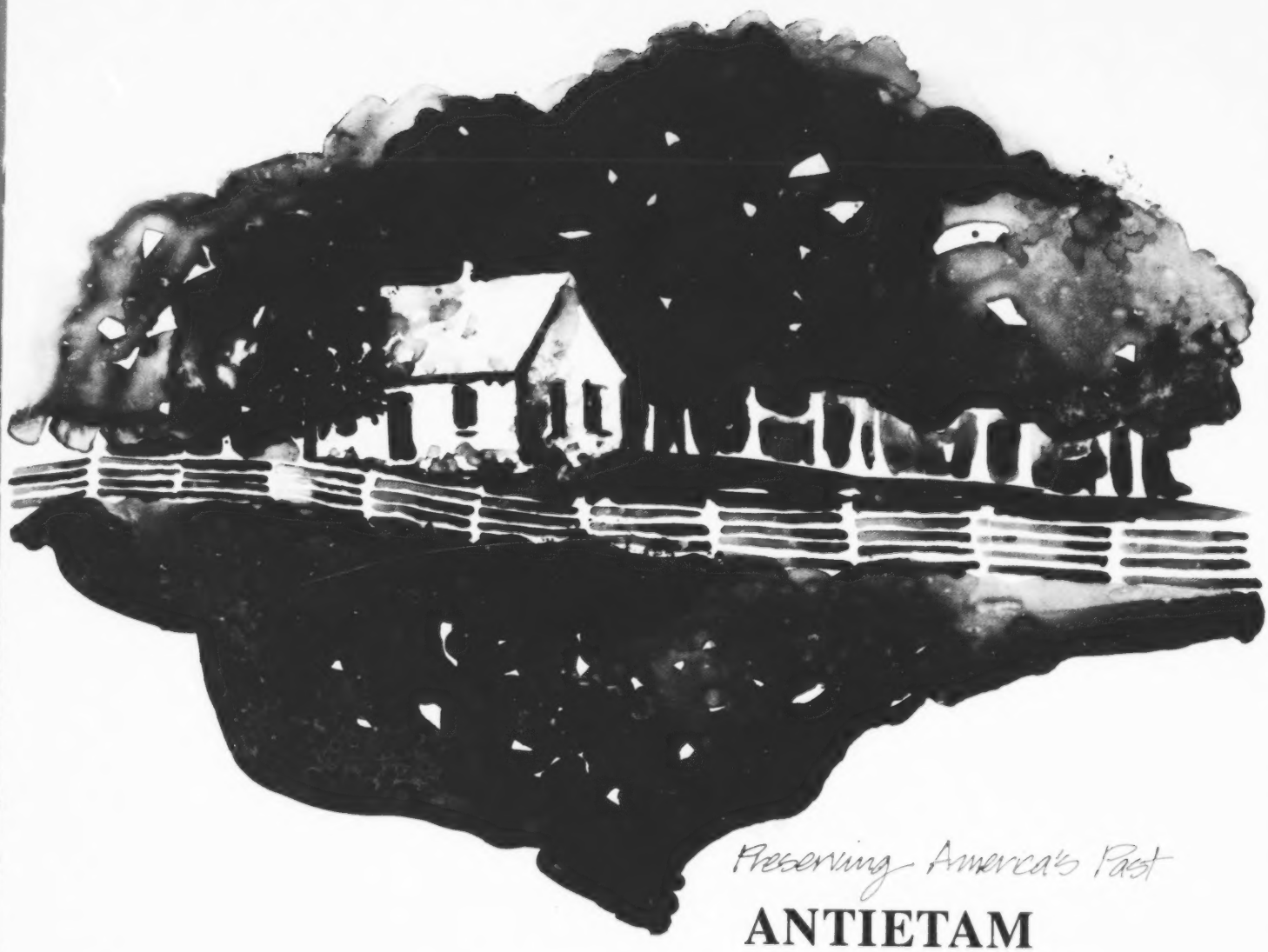

Preserving America's Past

ANTIETAM

NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

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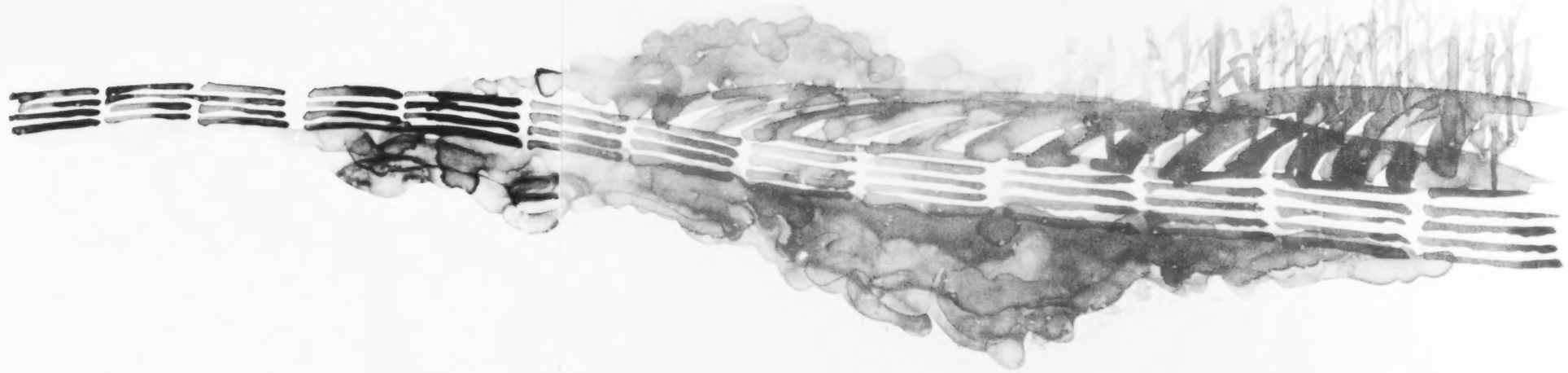
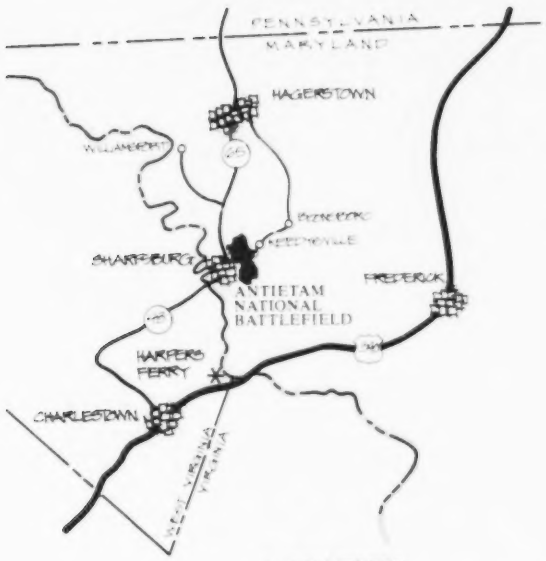


Preserving America's Past

ANTIETAM

NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



LOCATION
ANTIETAM NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE

GENERAL GEORGE B. McCLELLAN

BATTLEFIELD PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE

Antietam National Battlefield in Washington County, Maryland, was established to commemorate the bloodiest single day of the American Civil War. The Battle of Antietam (or Sharpsburg) began at dawn on September 17, 1862. About 40,000 Southerners under the command of General Robert E. Lee were pitted against 87,000 men of the Federal Army of the Potomac commanded by General George McClellan. At days end a total of 23,100 men and boys were killed, wounded, or missing.

Many historians consider the Battle of Antietam a major turning point in the Civil War. Although neither side could claim victory at battle's end, General Lee's failure to effectively carry the war into the North caused Great Britain to postpone recognition of the Confederacy and eventually allowed President Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. From that time the Civil War had a dual purpose – to preserve the Union and end slavery.

PLAN PURPOSE

The National Park Service is preparing a general management plan for Antietam National Battlefield. This planning effort is part of the periodic review and updating of long-range plans for units of the national park system to ensure their adequacy in meeting congressional mandates, protecting natural, cultural, and scenic resources, addressing visitors needs, and responding to day-to-day operational concerns. The last plan for Antietam was completed in 1971, so it is timely that management reexamine the battlefield and its resources to determine if any new directions need to be explored to ensure long-term preservation and use of the area.

The primary concern in planning for Antietam National Battlefield remains the 1960 legislative mandate that directed the National Park Service

> to preserve, protect and improve the Antietam Battlefield . . . , to assure the public a full and unimpeded view thereof, and to provide for the maintenance of the site . . . in, or its restoration to, substantially the condition in which it was at the time of the battle of Antietam."

To accomplish that mission, the general management plan will concentrate on developing a historic scene plan, which will recommend a variety of actions to restore the landscape to substantially its condition and appearance on September 17, 1862.

DUNKER CHURCH 1862

TASKS TO BE DONE

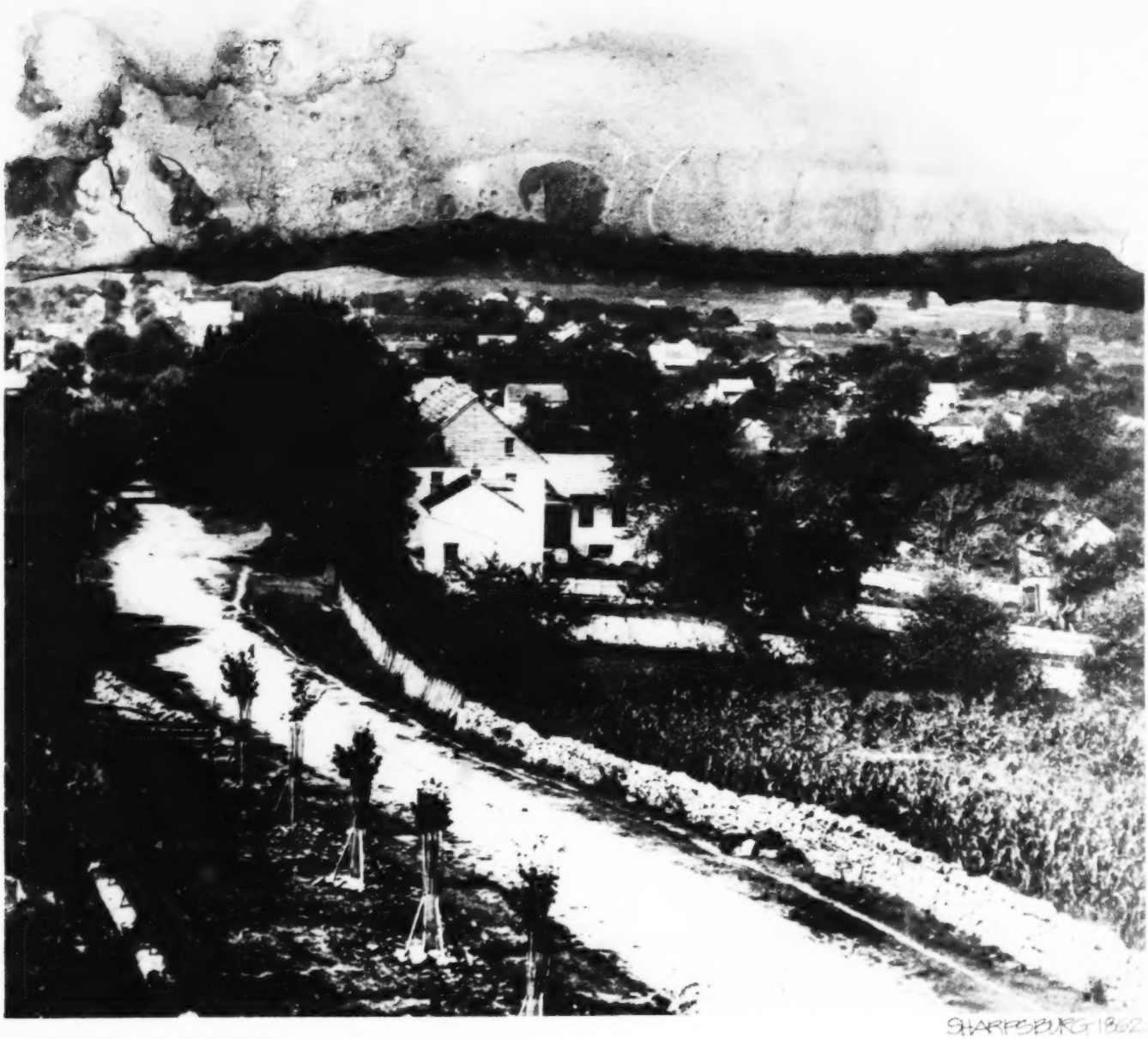
Although Antietam National Battlefield maintains a high degree of historical integrity, certain changes over the years have resulted in the need for restoration efforts. To date, restoration has occurred on a piecemeal basis. The general management plan concentration on historic scene planning will result in a comprehensive approach to restoration of the battlefield.

As the first step of planning, we are gathering all available information on both historic and contemporary Antietam. Based on this data, we will conduct a comparative analysis to determine what landscaping actions (reforestation, fencelines, etc.) need to be taken to accurately restore the battlefield scene. The historical data has been compiled, and the historic landscape features are depicted on the 1862 historical base map presented in this brochure. Small features, including individual farm buildings, churches, and haystacks, were not included on the map. When contemporary landscape features have been mapped, all pertinent information will be entered into a computerized system for comparative analysis. The resulting map will provide the information necessary to develop an accurate historic scene plan.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

This document is the initial product in the Antietam planning process. In the upcoming months the historic scene plan will be printed and distributed for your review and comment. At a later date a draft general management plan and accompanying environmental assessment will also be released for review and comment. In the interim, if you have any concerns that should be considered as part of planning for Antietam, please contact the park superintendent at the following address:

Antietam National Battlefield
P.O. Box 158
Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782
Phone (301) 432-5124

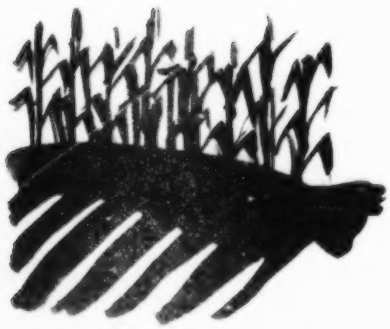

SHARPSBURG 1862

HISTORICAL BASE MAP

SEPTEMBER 1862

ANTIETAM NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



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